

# DRAFT

June 5, 2012

Mayor Sidney A. Katz and Council  
City of Gaithersburg  
31 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2098

Re: Sears Site – 16331 and 16401 Shady Grove Road

Dear Mayor Katz:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the annexation petition for the City of Gaithersburg to annex the properties located at 16331 and 16401 Shady Grove Road, owned by the Sears Corporation.

As you may recall, Rockville's Mayor and Council provided testimony during your consideration of an updated Land Use Element of Gaithersburg's Master Plan. Our testimony of March 23, 2011 is an attachment to this letter.

Our position is the same as it was last year: the logical long-term boundary between Rockville and Gaithersburg is Shady Grove Road. Therefore, Rockville objects to Gaithersburg's annexing the property in question and any other properties on what we consider to be the Rockville side of Shady Grove Road. Further, Gaithersburg's annexation of this property would create an obstacle to Rockville's gaining access to other portions of its Maximum Expansion Limits, which are also south of Shady Grove Road. We respectfully request that Gaithersburg refrain from moving forward with this action.

Rockville wishes to continue the long-term good relationship between our cities, and would have wished that Gaithersburg had reached out to Rockville to discuss the annexation. In that spirit, we propose that Rockville and Gaithersburg convene a working group, which would at times include Montgomery County, with the purpose of reviewing and potentially updating the 1992 Memorandum of Understanding (attached) that was developed as guidance for future annexations. It is clear that, as our cities are in such close proximity to each other, we must interact further on this topic in order to establish a renewed understanding.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony.

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council

Cc: Jenny Kimball  
Angel Jones  
Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Council  
Montgomery County Planning Board  
Rose Krasnow  
Debra Daniel  
Susan Swift  
David B. Levy  
Manisha Tewari